



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Public Health Service
12/17/02

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

Atlanta GA 30333

December 17, 2002 12/17/02

Blaine Edmo
Chairman
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Fort Hall Business Council
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

Dear Mr. Edmo:

For many years, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has been working with The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to evaluate the potential public health concerns associated with the Eastern Michaud Flats National Priorities List site, Pocatello, Bannock County, Idaho. Recent activities have included a specific evaluation of the public health concerns associated with the potential air contamination associated with the site (ATSDR Health Consultation, March 2001). Enclosed is a summary of the key activities and evaluations ATSDR has conducted to date.

We believe that it is now appropriate for ATSDR and the State of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to start to complete their activities at the Eastern Michaud Flats site by developing a comprehensive public health assessment. The public health assessment will use the results of our four previous health consultations and will evaluate the remaining public health concerns potentially associated with the site (e.g., review of county-wide cancer rates, potential public health concerns associated with multiple routes of exposure). As we have done previously, The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will be given an opportunity to review the public health assessment prior to its public release.

In two previous letters (see enclosures), ATSDR proposed how it could address the remaining Shoshone-Bannock Tribes specific public health site-related issues. To date we have not received a reply to our proposals. Since we did not receive an official tribal response, ATSDR intends to proceed with the development of the new Eastern Michaud Flats Public Health Assessment, with the understanding that The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are consulted regarding ATSDR activities throughout the development of the assessment.

Should you have any questions concerning ATSDR activities at the Eastern Michaud Flats National Priorities List site, please contact Commander Richard Robinson, ATSDR Region X Representative. His telephone number is (206) 553-5114 and his e-mail address is RWR0@cdc.gov. If you have any questions regarding Tribal Consultation activities, please contact Mr. Dean Seneca, ATSDR Office of Tribal Affairs. Mr. Seneca's telephone number is (404) 498-0457 and his e-mail address is ZKG8@cdc.gov.

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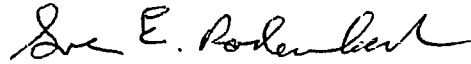


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Page 2 – Mr. Blaine Edmo

If you have any questions regarding Tribal Consultation activities, please contact Mr. Dean Seneca, ATSDR Office of Tribal Affairs. Mr. Seneca's telephone number is (404) 498-0457 and his e-mail address is ZKG8@cdc.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sven E. Rodenbeck".

Sven E. Rodenbeck, Sc.D., P.E., DEE
Captain, US Public Health Service
Section Chief
Superfund Site Assessment Branch

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. Dean Seneca, ATSDR, DHAC, OTA

Mr. Richard Robinson, ATSDR, Region X

Mr. Greg Ulirsch, ATSDR, DHAC, SSAB

Ms. Elke Shaw-Tulloch, State of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Ms. Linda Meyer, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region X

**Summary of Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
(ATSDR) Activities and Key Events at the
Eastern Michaud Flats National Priorities List Site
Pocatello, Bannock County, Idaho
December 2002**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Completed Activities</u>
May 1990	ATSDR Health Consultation – Phosphate Slag Use
August 1990	ATSDR Preliminary Public Health Assessment
August 1992	The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Request Health Study
November 1995	ATSDR Finalize Health Study Report – Fort Hall Air Emissions Study, Fort Hall Indian Reservation
August 1996	The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Request Additional ATSDR Public Health Evaluations
March 1997	ATSDR Site Review and Update that Outlines Future ATSDR Activities
November 1997	ATSDR Releases 3 Health Consultations for Public Comment – Groundwater, Surface Soil, and Surface Water/Sediment
October 1998	ATSDR Finalizes the 3 Health Consultations
March 2000	ATSDR Releases Health Consultation for Public Comment – Air Contamination
March 2001	ATSDR Finalizes Air Health Consultation

Throughout this time period, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health and Safety under a cooperative agreement with ATSDR, collaborated with the Southeastern District Health Department in Pocatello and The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Health and Human Services in Fort Hall to complete several health educational and outreach activities.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

June 28, 2000

Mr. Claude M. Broncho
Fort Hall Business Council
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Fort Hall Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

Dear Mr. Broncho:

During our last meeting on April 5 concerning the Eastern Michaud Flats National Priorities List (NPL) site, we discussed how the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) could address the remaining issues The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have brought to the our attention. Specifically, we talked about how ATSDR could determine whether cancer is occurring in members of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes at a rate higher than what would be expected and how ATSDR could evaluate the impact the Eastern Michaud Flats NPL site may have had on plants of particular concern to The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

To start the investigation into the occurrence of cancer in members of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, I have sent the enclosed letter to Mr. Curtis Farmer, Land Use Policy Commissioner. With the help of the Northwestern Tribal Epidemiology Center, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, I think we can get this investigation started.

In regards to the impact the Eastern Michaud Flats NPL site may have had on plants of particular concern to The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, I have talked with our Exposure Investigation staff and we have developed a conceptual outline of how ATSDR could possibly conduct an investigation to address this issue. As part of this proposed investigation, ATSDR would training Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members on how to collect the plant samples. Those Tribal members would collect the plants from the particular areas of concern and would also collect plants from an area that has not been impacted by the Eastern Michaud Flats NPL site (control samples). The Tribe will provide these samples to ATSDR along with a general description of how each plant would be used by Tribal members (e.g., eaten, used as a food additive, burned, medicable), how much of the plant is used at each particular time (e.g., weight), how often the plant is used (e.g., daily, monthly, yearly, or as needed), and who uses the plant (e.g., adults, children, elderly, sick). ATSDR would have the plants analyzed by the appropriate laboratory for contaminants of concern. Using the laboratory analysis results and the information provided by

Page 2 - Mr. Claude M. Broncho

the Tribe concerning how each particular is plant used, ATSDR would evaluate whether Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members would have any additional health risks if they use the plants collected for this investigation.

There are many more details that need to be discussed and agreed upon before we can proceed with the plant investigation. Prior to starting any plant investigation, ATSDR would provide The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes with a complete investigation protocol for your comment. At this point, ATSDR needs to know whether the conceptual outline of the proposed plant investigation is acceptable to The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Please be advised that ATSDR's records policy is such that we can not protect or keep information confidential about environmental sampling results or information associated with the environmental sampling results. In addition at the completion of an Exposure Investigation, ATSDR is required to issue a publically available report that summarizes the results.

I would be more than happy to come to Fort Hall to discuss these issues further with you or any other members of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Please let either Mr. Richard Robinson, ATSDR Regional Representative for Region X, or me know when you would be available. Mr. Robinson's telephone number is (206) 553-5114. My office telephone number is (404) 639-0648 (eastern time).

Sincerely yours,

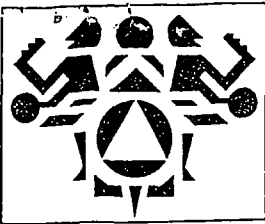


Sven E. Rodenbeck, Sc. D., P.E., DEE
Section Chief, Section A
Superfund Site Assessment Branch
Mailstop E32

Enclosures

cc:

Ms. Susan Hanson, Superfund Office, The Shoshone Bannock Tribes
Mr. Richard W. Robinson, ATSDR, Region X



**NORTHWEST
PORTLAND
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Umatilla Tribe
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Yakama Nation

527 SW Hall
Suite 300
Portland, OR 97201
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October 26, 1999

Sven Rodenbeck, Sc.D.
Section Chief, SA, SSAB, DHAC
Mailstop E32
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Atlanta, GA 30333

Re: Cancer incidence in the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe of Idaho

Dear Dr. Rodenbeck:

Thank you for your letter of October 21, 1999, about the concern of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe about possible adverse health effects due to the nearby phosphate ore processing facilities. My program will be happy to assist you in your investigation to determine whether there could be an increased incidence of cancer in the Indian population due to exposure to airborne pollutants.

I have referred your request to Francine Romero, PhD, MPH, and Tom Becker, MD, PhD, who are epidemiologists working with the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, and to James Bettles who is the Manager of the Northwest Tribal Registry which we are using for record linkage studies to correct for racial misclassification in various health data sets. We have recently completed an initial study with the Idaho State Cancer Registry, and thus should have information which will be helpful to you in your investigation. You will be hearing from my staff soon.

Sincerely,

L. D. Robertson, MD, MPH
Director, Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center

cc:

Tom Becker, MD, PhD
James Bettles
Brenda Edwards, PhD, National Cancer Institute
Cheryle Kennedy, Executive Director
Clark Marquart, DD/CMO, Portland Area IHS
Francine Romero, PhD, MPH
Doni Wilder, Director, Portland Area IHS

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
Atlanta GA 30333

June 28, 2000

Mr. Curtis Farmer
Land Use Policy Commissioner
The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, Idaho 83203

Dear Mr. Farmer:

Thank you for meeting with me on April 5 concerning the Eastern Michaud Flats National Priorities List (NPL) site. In addition to talking about the health impact of the air emissions coming from the two phosphate or processing facilities located on the Eastern Michaud Flats NPL site, we also discussed how the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) could determine whether cancer is occurring in Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members more than what would be expected.

ATSDR has obtained cancer incidence and mortality information for the surrounding counties (i.e., Bannock, Bingham, and Power, Idaho). However, this information does not address the Tribes' specific request concerning the occurrence of cancer in tribal members. In order to obtain this type of information, ATSDR has contacted the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (please see the enclosed letters). They have conducted similar investigations in different Native American communities. To conduct the investigation, the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center would need access to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal roster. This will permit them to link specific cancer cases reported in the Idaho Cancer Registry with Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members. The Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center would evaluate whether the occurrence of cancer in Shoshone-Bannock Tribes is more than what would be expected. The Center would provide ATSDR and the Tribes with a statistical summary report. The names of Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members would not be in the report.

If you could arrange for the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center to obtain access to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal roster, it would help us address the Tribes' concern. If it would help, I would be more than happy to arrange a meeting between ATSDR, the Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Please contact me at your earliest convenience so that we can address this important issue for the Tribes. My office telephone number is (404) 639-0648 (eastern time zone).

Page 2 - Mr. Curtis Farmer

Sincerely yours,



Sven E. Rodenbeck, Sc.D., P.E., DEE
Section Chief, Section A
Superfund Site Assessment Branch
Mailstop E32

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. Claude M. Broncho, Fort Hall Business Council
Dr. Thomas Becker, Northwest Tribal Epidemiology Center
Ms. Susan Hanson, Superfund Office, The Shoshone Bannock Tribes
Mr. Richard W. Robinson, ATSDR, Region X

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OFFICE OF WASTE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service

ATSDR
AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND DISEASE REGISTRY

Date: 12/18/2002

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

TO: (Name, office symbol, building, room number)	MAIL STOP	INITIALS	DATE
1. Mr. Dean Seneca	E32		
2. Mr. Richard Robinson			
3. Mr. Greg Ulirsch	E32		
4. Ms. Elke Saw-Tulloch			
5. Ms. Linda Meyer			
6.			
7.			
8.			

<input type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Coordination	<input type="checkbox"/> Investigate	<input type="checkbox"/> See Me
<input type="checkbox"/> Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> File	<input type="checkbox"/> Justify	<input type="checkbox"/> Signature
<input type="checkbox"/> As Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> For Clearance	<input type="checkbox"/> Note and Return	
<input type="checkbox"/> Circulate	<input type="checkbox"/> For Correction	<input type="checkbox"/> Per Conversation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Comment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Reply	

REMARKS:

FROM: (Name, office symbol) Mr. Sven Rodenbeck, ATSDR, SSAB	Bldg/Room No.
	Phone No. (404) 498-0439
	Mail Stop E32

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 send to mark

mmk
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 Charles
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